State Quality Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2009

___Attendees___: Barbara Feaster, Carol Miller, Carolyn Jensen, Julie Steele, Karla Pardini, Kerri Burns, Rick Smith, Savania Tsosie, Trisha Beck

___Guests___: Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Kelsey Lewis, Mike Hamblin, Navina Forsythe

Welcome
Rick welcomed the group to the meeting. Introductions were made. Barbara and Savania are new members to this committee.

Data Trends – Navina Forsythe and Aude Bermond-Hamlet (Child and Family Services)
Aude facilitates the Trend Analysis Committee for Child and Family Services. She explained what it is the committee accomplishes for Child and Family Services. They have looked at the same 16 trends for the past several years, and are at a place where they want to modify these trends to bring them in line with the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). She explained how the quarterly report is available on the DCFS website at http://www.dcfs.utah.gov/QuarterlyReport.htm. This report contains many of the trends that the Trends Analysis Committee analyze on a quarterly basis. Navina is here to address questions about these data measures.

The State Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) is the committee that is charged with overseeing Child and Family Services, and the Trend Analysis Committee needs their approval to modify the trends they review. Aude gave a presentation outlining the changes that the Trend Analysis Committee is currently proposing. Part of it is combining the many different quarterly reports that are created for Child and Family Services for various purposes. The Trend Analysis Committee will be proposing recommendations for data measures to be added (i.e., kinship) at a future meeting.

Trend #1 – Home-Based to Foster Care. This measures how many children come into out-of-home care after receiving In-Home Services. *It is proposed that this trend be broken out by case type (supervision, family preservation, and counseling services) and changed to a rolling year.*

Trend #2 – Abuse in Foster Care. This measures abuse that happens to a child while in out-of-home care. The current measure also counts abuse that occurs by child, which is not a requirement for the federal CFSR. This will be looked at separately to see how big of an issue this is and then a decision will be made as to how often this needs to be tracked. *It is proposed*

to replace this trend with the federal CFSR measure "Safety—Measure 2—Abuse by Foster Parents, Residential Staff".

Trend #3 – Recidivism from prior Home-Based/Foster Care cases. This measures how many children had prior out-of-home care or Home-Based cases. *It is proposed that this measure be broken out separately for In-Home Services cases and for Out-of-Home Care cases and changed to a prospective view (Navina explained what this prospective view will look like).*

Trend #4 – Recidivism from prior supported allegation. This measures the number of child victims with two supported allegations (CPS allegation to CPS allegation) within 12 months. *It is proposed to replace this with the federal CFSR measure "Safety 1—Measure 1—Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence".* The only difference is that this measure looks at six months instead of 12 months.

Trend #5 – Length in care (12 to 24 months). This measures the number of children who were in out-of-home care for a least one year who attained permanency. *It is proposed to replace this measure with the federal CFSR measure "Permanency 3—Measure 1—Permanency for children in foster care for longer periods of time (who attain permanency)".*

Trend #6 – Length in care (less than 1 year). This measures the number of children who were in out-of-home care for less than 12 months. *It is proposed to replace this measure with the federal CFSR measures "Permanency 1—Measure 1—Timeliness of Reunification", and "Permanency 1—Measure 2—Timeliness of reunification".*

Due to the interest of time, it was decided that Aude and Navina will come to the next State QIC meeting (August 24, 2009) to complete this presentation. Committee members will review the handout of Aude's presentation before the next meeting. The committee voted and anonymously gave their conditional approval for Child and Family Services to move to changing these measures, with the caveat that the remaining presentation be given at the next meeting and they reserve the right to revisit their approval of these changes.

Foster Care Recruitment Training Plan – Kelsey Lewis and Mike Hamblin (Utah Foster Care Foundation)

Rick explained that during the last meeting, some of the trends were showing that older children in out-of-home care were not experiencing permanency. Kelsey and Mike explained how the Utah Foster Care Foundation (UFCF) is handling this issue. They gave members a handout that included information about their recruitment program. Recruitment is one piece of the system, and one of the challenges the UFCF is experiencing at this time is recruiting for basic and specialized levels of care per their contract with Child and Family Services. They are experiencing problems in recruiting foster homes for the teen population.

The prescreening tool has been very helpful in recruiting foster families. Most of these families do not have any experience in raising children, and these families are not suited to deal with older children and the more difficult issues they face. Mike explained that 17% of foster families have indicated that they are willing to care for children who are 14 years and older. More than

half of the children in out-of-home care in the Salt Lake Valley area are 14 years and older, but most of these youth are in residential settings and group homes. The trend shows that more children are being placed in family-home settings than in the past.

The UFCF provides parts of the supports and resources offered to foster families (i.e., cluster groups). Youth need more in-depth services such as offered through Child and Family Services (i.e., proctor homes). One nice program in the Salt Lake City area is that families can be licensed through ARTEC and work directly with Valley Mental Health.

Trisha asked how cluster support groups are formed and maintained. Kelsey explained how these groups operate. Kelsey explained that they also have foster parent ambassadors who go out and help recruit new foster families. They have no marketing budget, but use fundraising as a means for recruitment. This is also helpful in educating the community about the foster care population.

Kelsey suggested she bring their annual report that shows that most of their recruitment goals are being met. They do struggle in the Eastern Region in recruiting foster homes, especially for older children. Kelsey stated that their website is one of the number one sources of recruitment. They also hold "Ask a Foster Parent" nights every month.

Barbara explained that there is a breakthrough series collaborative coming up with an opportunity for addressing permanency and what that will look like. There is also a resource parent curriculum being piloted through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network that she really feels is good for teaching foster parents specific ways of intervening. There are also many products that can be downloaded from their website. The State QIC can make recommendations to Child and Family Services for changing the UFCF training curriculum. **Copies of the curriculum will be provided to committee members.** Members can call Nick Woolsey with specific questions.

Rick asked if UFCF receives feedback about the barriers to providing foster care. Kelsey explained that pay rates are a huge barrier. The MARC study looked at the actual cost of living in each state, and Utah continues to fall well below the national average in pay rates for foster families. She also said that having so many separate agencies for a family to have to go to in order to become a licensed foster family is challenging. The length of time from the first phone call to an actual placement is another barrier. The lack of child care assistance has caused problems for families (Julie suggested using the Christmas Box Houses for this assistance). Licensing standards are also difficult to meet.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 24, 2009.